

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert

Recreation Information Update

November 24 - 30, 2010

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222
TDD 876-6228

Open Daily: 8:00am to 5:00pm Closed Thanksgiving 11/25

ROADS: Major Eastern Sierra roads are open, including HWY 395. Trans Sierra roads - SR 108 (Sonora Pass) and SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) are closed for the winter. SR 120 (Tioga Pass) and SR 89 (Monitor Pass) are closed due to snow. These roads may open if weather conditions allow. South SR 158 is open to June Lake Village. Weather and road conditions can change rapidly this time of year; mountain passes are subject to immediate controls and/or closures. Drivers headed to the mountains need to be sure their vehicles are equipped with chains, including those with snowtires. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623), or visit the web at www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi for California highway conditions and construction schedules. For Nevada roads, call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237), or visit the website at www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads.

SR270, the **BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK** road is closed due to snow. The Lake Mary road is open to Tamarack Ski Center parking area. The Lakes Basin road is closed. The Rock Creek road is open to East Fork parking area. In Bishop Creek, SR 168 is open to Aspendell and the South Lake road is open to Bishop Creek Lodge. In the White Mountains, the road to the **ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST AND SCHULMAN GROVE** is closed at the junction of SR HWY 168. The Big Pine Canyon road is open. Onion Valley, Whitney Portal and Horseshoe Meadow roads are closed for the winter.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open. The Big Pine, Titus Canyon, Devils Golf Course, West Side, Salt Creek, and Charcoal Kilns dirt roads are open. The North Pass Road into Saline Valley is open; high clearance 4x4 recommended. The South Pass road into Saline Valley is posted closed due to washouts from recent flooding. Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a good backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. Check the website at www.nps.gov/deva ("Plan Your Visit & Things To Do" section) for descriptions of backcountry roads, and the Morning Report for current information.

WEATHER: High pressure over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave starting mid week will result in sunny days with afternoon breezes. Unseasonable cold temperatures will continue through the weekend. A storm system is expected to move over the region this weekend, producing gusty winds, partly cloudy skies and continued cold temperatures. Precipitation is likely through the weekend in the mountains, with the snow level at 4,500 feet. Highs have been in the teens in the mountains, upper 30s in the Owens Valley and upper 50s in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from sub zero in the mountains, to the 30s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY** campgrounds are open. The **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** campgrounds at Tuttle Creek (fee/no water) and the Pleasant Valley Pit (fee/no water) are open. Additional privately operated campgrounds & RV facilities are open throughout the area.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST, Lone Pine to Lee Vining - the following campgrounds are open: Lone Pine (no water/no fee), Bitterbrush (no water/no fee), Holiday in Rock Creek (no water/no fee).

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Yosemite Valley has sites open and reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15th of each month, for a one-month block through recreation.gov; or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Wawona (SR 41), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat) and Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. For Yosemite National Park information, visit the web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open campgrounds include: Furnace Creek, Sunset, Texas Spring, Stovepipe Wells, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/free) and Wildrose (free). RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. For more information, visit the park web site at www.nps.gov/deva.

Campgrounds are open in the **SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST** on the Kern River and at Lake Isabella on a reservation, or a first-come/first-served basis. For more information, call 1-760-376-3781 or visit the web at www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia.

Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County	California - Department of Transportation	Bureau of Land Management
California - Department of Fish & Game	National Park Service	Mono County
City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power		USDA - Forest Service

FISHING: The **OWENS RIVER** from Crowley Lake to Tinnemaha Reservoir (including Pleasant Valley Reservoir) and **DIAZ LAKE** are open to year-round fishing. Fishing is open in Kern County at Lake Isabella and a four-mile portion of the Kern River upstream from the Johnsondale Bridge. Copies of California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

HUNTING: General hunting season for quail, chukar, pheasant and doves is open. Waterfowl season for ducks (including Mergansers), common Moorhen, American Coot and geese is open.

WINTER SPORTS: **MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN** is open with a 3.5 to 7 foot base of packed powder and machine groomed snow. Please be aware some obstacles do exist. Ski and ride with care. For daily lift operation and snow conditions, visit the web site at www.mammothmountain.com, or call 1-888-766-9778.

Many snow-covered roads in Mono County offer a variety of scenery and terrain for X-COUNTRY SKIING, SNOWSHOEING and SNOWMOBILING. **TAMARACK CROSS COUNTRY SKI CENTER** in the Mammoth Lakes Basin is open with 19 miles of set track; call 1-760-934-5293 for more information.

Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for current snow conditions, trail maps and avalanche risk; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm or call 1-760-924-5500.

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared with winter gear for snowy/icy terrain, freezing temperatures and sudden weather changes. Recent snow makes trails difficult to locate and passes very slick. Most roads to trailheads are closed for the winter.

WILDERNESS PERMITS are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are no longer in effect for Eastern Sierra wilderness areas. Self-issue permits can be obtained in the night boxes at the following locations: InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) and Bridgeport Ranger Station after office hours. Reservations for wilderness permits can be made up to six months in advance of the starting date of a trip, by phone at 1-760-873-2483, fax to 1-760-873-2484, or by mail - 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514. The 2011 Mt. Whitney Lottery will occur in February. For more information on wilderness permits, including an application form and fees, visit the Inyo National Forest web site at www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS: Mammoth Art Guild Presents **THANKSGIVING ART FESTIVAL - NOVEMBER 26, 27 AND 28**, at the Minaret Mall from 10:00am to 6:00pm. Get a jump on holiday shopping with a great variety of arts & crafts.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 9:00am to 3:00pm, including Thanksgiving (11/25). Visitors must use over-snow transportation to access the park. Visitors should bring drinking water, food and warm clothes for a visit to Bodie, and dogs must be on a six ft. leash (recreation fee area).

The **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE** Visitor Center, located one mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, is open 9:00am to 4:30pm - Thursday through Monday for information on and film on this remarkable lake (closed 11/25). The Visitor Center will close for the winter season on Tuesday, 11/30.

EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily, with exhibits on Inyo County; including a significant collection of Native American baskets and artifacts from Manzanar NHS (closed 11/25).

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 4:30pm (open Thanksgiving). Self-guided walking and auto tours make it easy to explore the park. Check at the Interpretive Center or the web at www.nps.gov/manz for more information.

Visit the Beverly & Jim Rogers **MUSEUM OF LONE PINE FILM HISTORY**; with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. The museum is open daily at 10:00am; closing at 6:00pm Monday through Wednesday, at 7:00pm Thursday through Saturday and at 4:00pm on Sunday (closed 11/25).

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER (temporary) at Furnace Creek Ranch is open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm (open Thanksgiving). Ranger talks and other interpretive programs are presented daily. An evening program is presented at 7:00pm in a variety of locations (check at the Visitor Center). **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:00am to 5:00pm, and "Underground Mystery Tours" daily (open Thanksgiving). Check the website at www.nps.gov/deva for more information.

BLM JAWBONE STATION REGIONAL OHV FACILITY is open 9:00am to 5:00pm daily for trip assistance. The station is located 25 miles north of Mojave on SR 14 for pre-trip information; call 1-760-373-1146 (open Thanksgiving).

Visit the **KERN VALLEY MUSEUM** to explore the fascinating history of the Old West through artifacts and memorabilia that make history come alive, in Kernville; open 10:00am to 4:00pm Thursday through Sunday (closed 11/25).

Schedules of activities and information on points of interest throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available at the Visitor Center (closed Thanksgiving).

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